# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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© *Photograph by C. D. Jameson*

**TAMPING A DIKE ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER WHOSE MOUTH IS IN SHANTUNG**

**(see Bulletin No. 1)**

**HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS**

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## Sacred Shantung, Where Famine Spreads

MILLIONS of Chinese in the fertile Shantung Peninsula face famine this winter. Relief agencies already are at work.

The scene of the new famine has been the setting of important events for China. Shantung ground holds the tomb of Confucius; there also rises the sacred Tai Shan. Germany got its foothold in China at Kiaochow Bay and spread its influence through the entire peninsula. Japan succeeded to Germany's holdings when Kiaochow was captured during the World War. The territory was given back to China in 1922.

### Train Runs Once a Week

The tomb of Confucius, China's Mt. Vernon, is in western Shantung. The completion of the Tientsin-Pukow railway in 1912 opened direct communication with the sacred places of Shantung. One express train a week to Pukow sufficed for superior travel, but no attention to meeting or encouraging tourist travel was made.

One goes to the home of Confucius now as Marco Polo might have gone. Express trains only stop at Küfu station, 88 miles south of Tsinan, when great officials pass that way. The station is six miles from the town, and there is no adequate accommodation for large numbers of travelers at either place. Unless official command opens the stone-floored inn rooms to one who brings his bed and board with him, the trip is not to be recommended in the twentieth century.

### Where Descendants of Confucius Live

The road from the station to the town, where nearly all the inhabitants are descendants of Confucius, could not be called a road elsewhere, and the springless Peking cart or a sedan chair are the only vehicles. The Duke Kung, direct descendant and present head of the great clan, expressly stipulated that the railway should not come any nearer to Küfu, and motors and jinrikishas are not used.

Beside the many temples in the city there is, in a walled park a mile beyond the city walls, the grave of the philosopher and his descendants. The public cannot pass beyond the first gate; only officials and distinguished visitors with official letters are permitted to view the green mound and its tablets in the last inclosure. "But," says the guide book, "admittance may, however, be obtained by tipping the guardian." For centuries the officials have been sent from Peking to make annual offerings at the grave of Confucius, but one does not see crowds of scholars nor the stream of pilgrims that might be expected at this oldest shrine of the empire of 400,000,000 people.

### No Shelter in Town or on Mountain

Taianfu, 45 miles from Tsinan, is the station for pilgrims making the ascent of Tai Shan, the Great Mountain, where worship has been continuous for 2,400 years. One leaves the train and is carried in a sedan chair to the summit in six hours. It is best to descend quickly and get away by another accommodation train, as there is no fit shelter for a European in the town or on the mountain.

A series of neglected and decaying temples that were once splendid shrines marks the ascent along the stony path worn by the feet and the floods of cen-



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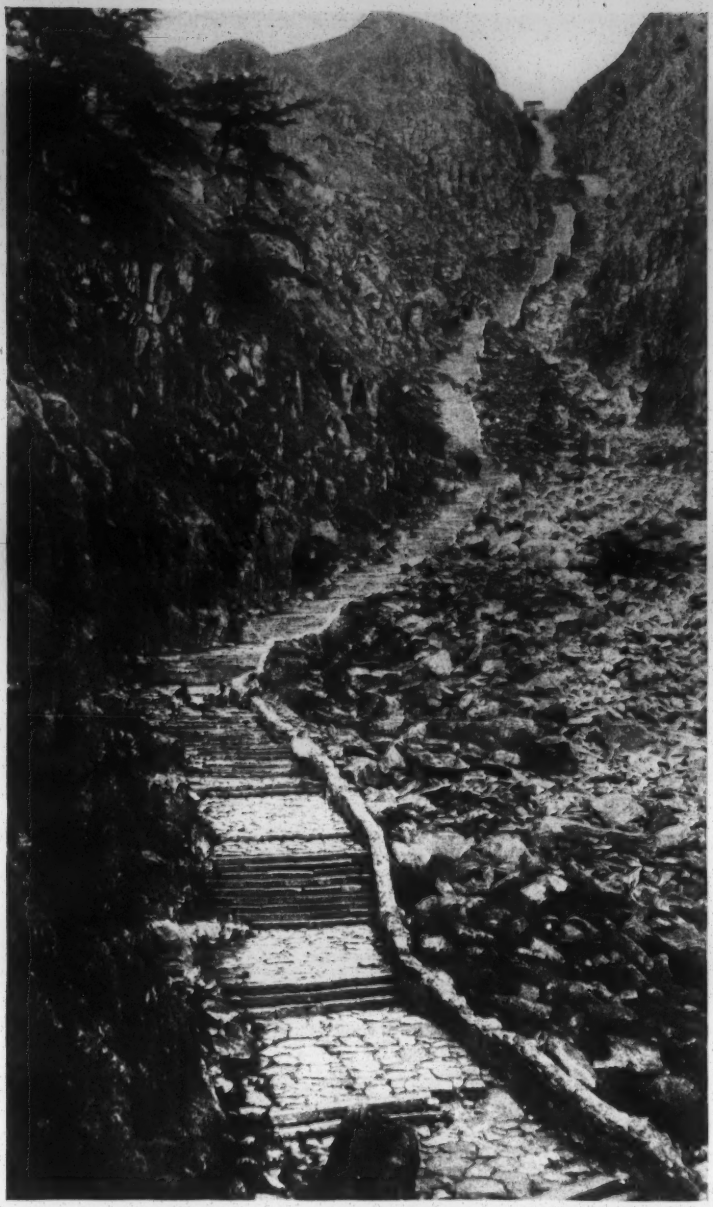

© Photograph by Richard M. Vanderburgh

**THE WAY OF THE DEVOUT CHINESE PILGRIM IS UP THESE FLIGHTS OF STEPS TO THE SUMMIT OF TAI SHAN.**

**In a climb of five miles the pilgrim, be he Buddhist, Taoist, or follower of Confucius, makes an ascent of 4,700 feet, by means of 6,600 steps on a well-paved highway. To get an idea of the exertion which such a climb entails, recall that there are only 900 steps in the Washington Monument (see Bulletin No. 1).**

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## The Eagle on the President's Flag

SHOULD the American eagle look to the right or to the left?

Nearly all eagles on American flags and coins face right. But the eagle on the President's flag faces left!

This point was brought up at hearings on a resolution introduced into the House of Representatives for the adoption of an official flag code for the United States.

The President's flag now consists of the President's seal on a blue background. Four large white stars appear on the blue ground, one in each corner.

### The President's Seal on the White House Corridor Floor

No official description of the President's seal has been found. The design is similar to the Great Seal of the United States and the "eagle" face of an old-style half dollar. The escutcheon in red, white and blue is mounted on the breast of an eagle with outstretched wings. An olive branch appears in the right talon and a bundle of thirteen arrows in the left. The coin eagle's beak, unlike that of the bird on the President's flag, points to the eagle's right. Both carry scrolls with the motto "E Pluribus Unum." In place of the stars above the coin eagle, there appears on the President's seal a conventional design of the sun's rays and clouds. Among the rays are thirteen small white stars.

The design of the President's seal may be seen in the floor of the entrance corridor of the White House and was used by at least one President in his favorite stick-pin.

### When the President's Flag Is Used

The custom governing the uses of the President's flag and the history of its adoption are described in "Flags of the World," a compilation by Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor and Lieut. Commander Byron McCandless, U. S. N., for the National Geographic Society as follows:

"When the President visits a vessel of the United States, the President's flag is broken at the main the moment he reaches the deck, and is kept flying as long as he is on board.

"When the President is embarked on a boat he usually directs that his flag be displayed from the staff in the bow of his barge. When he passes in a boat flying his flag, vessels of the Navy parade the full guard, four ruffles are given on the drum, four flourishes are sounded on the bugle, the National Anthem is played by the band, and officers and men salute.

"Previously there were two designs displayed on flags and on colors to be used in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Navy. The Navy design was of an earlier date than that of the Army and consisted of the coat-of-arms of the United States, as shown in the Great Seal, upon a blue ground. This happened to be almost identical with the infantry colors.

### Four Stars Are a Sign of Command

"The President's colors were designed to be distinctive from the infantry colors, and consisted of a blue ground with a large crimson star, outlined heavily with white. Within the star was to be seen the coat-of-arms of the United



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turies. Inscribed tablets are on every side. Odes and poems lift the soul of the scholarly pilgrim all the way to the summit temple, beside which is a tall tablet marking "the place where Confucius stood and felt the smallness of the world below."

**Bulletin No. 1, February 27, 1928.**

NOTE: For further information see: "Shantung—China's Holy Land" and "The Descendants of Confucius," in the National Geographic Magazine for September, 1919.

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## HOW TO OBTAIN THE GEOGRAPHIC

NOTE: Many teachers inquire about membership in the National Geographic Society, which entitles them to the monthly issues of The Geographic, and also all maps and panoramas, suitable for school room decoration, as issued. Membership is obtained by nomination by someone already a member. The great majority of school superintendents are members and they are most willing to recommend their teachers because they realize the value of The Geographic in the study of geography, history, general science, biology and allied subjects.

For your convenience a nomination blank is attached:

**DUES**

Annual membership in U. S., $3.00; annual membership abroad, $4.00; Canada, $3.50; life membership, $100. Please make remittances payable to the National Geographic Society, and if at a distance remit by New York draft, postal or express order.

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## Doll Day in Japan—and in America

ON THE third of March falls the Feast of the Dolls in Japan. Doll's Day in Japan will have significance in the United States this year because 59 Japanese dolls are traveling through the nation as "Ambassadresses of Good Will." The dolls are the gift of school girls of Japan.

Doll Day, for Japanese maidens, has all the excitements and joys that Christmas Day has for American boys and girls.

On that day four or five shelves covered with scarlet cloth are set up in the best guest room of every Japanese household, and the dolls are brought from a fireproof storeroom and arranged according to rank on the improvised staircase. On the top shelf are placed two dolls representing the emperor and empress, dressed in antique court costume and each sitting on a small lacquered platform. On the next step below are the five court musicians with tiny musical instruments. On the lower shelves range lesser dolls, many of them handed down from mother to daughter for generations.

### Often Add a New Doll to Collection on Doll Day

With the dolls are toy furnishings of every description, tables with dishes, bottles, toilet chests, and cook stoves. All of these precious articles are kept throughout the year in the "go-down" or storehouse which is a part of most Japanese gardens.

When they make their annual appearance on the third day of the third month, dolls reign supreme for three days. Holidays are taken from schools, and little girls visit one another all day long and play before the doll court. They kotow to the emperor and empress on the top shelf, offer them food and drink in miniature dishes, and handle the lesser dolls on the bottom shelves. As further diversion, there is usually an exciting visit to a doll shop to add a new beauty to the family collection.

Of course, Japanese maidens have their own favorite dolls to be loved and cherished throughout the year, but ceremonial dolls are only seen on March 3 and the two succeeding days. The Feast of the Dolls is said to have been instituted by Shoguns of ancient times with the threefold purpose of fostering patriotism, housewifery, and motherhood. When a Japanese girl marries she takes her own special dolls with her to her husband's house and carries on the custom with her own children. Few families are too poor to afford some sort of dolls on March 3, and red cotton shelves for the puppet emperor and empress with their retinue can be seen in the most humble homes.

### May 5 Is Flag Day for Boys

On the fifth day of May boys have their turn at holidays, when the Feast of the Flags is celebrated. On tall bamboo poles above each house a gay paper fish flies, one for every lad in the family. The fish is hollow, with open mouth, and the wind fills its red-gold paper sides to bursting. This fish represents the carp, noted for its bravery in battling against waterfalls and the unflinching way it takes a death blow from the fisherman's mallet. Every father who floats a paper carp for his small son on the fifth day of the fifth month hopes that he likewise will prove brave in life's battles and meet death unflinchingly.



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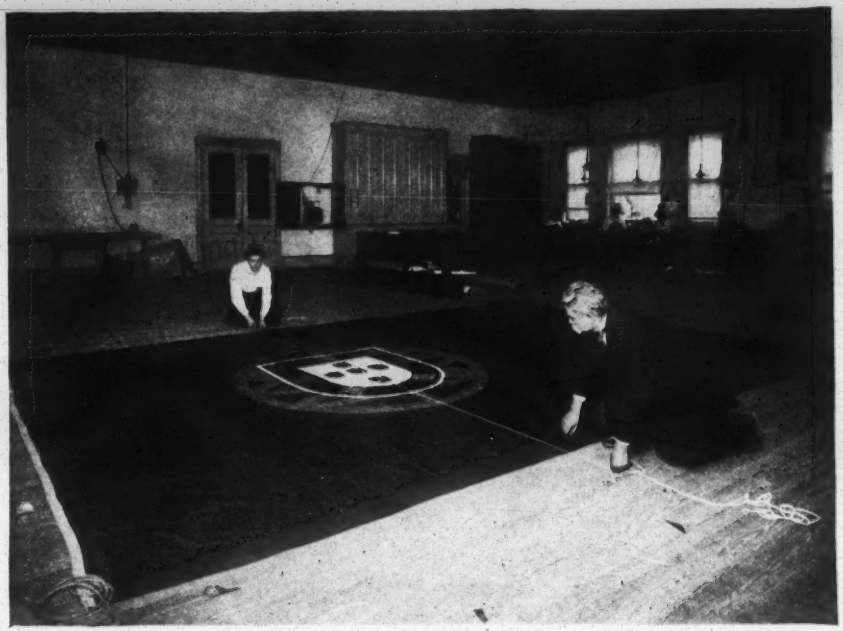
States, and outside the star within its angles were powdered small stars to the number of the States in the Union.

"The double display of flags and colors at the Grand Army Review in 1915 caused considerable comment, and as a result the suggestion was made to the President that the Navy flag might fittingly be made distinctive from the infantry colors by the addition of four stars—one in each corner.

"The flags of an Admiral and a General bear four stars as a sign of command.

"The President approved of the idea but directed that the coat-of-arms, as shown on the President's seal, be used upon the President's personal flag and colors."

**Bulletin No. 2, February 27, 1928.**



© *Photograph by Brown Brothers*

INSURING ACCURACY IN A FACTORY WHERE GOVERNMENT FLAGS ARE MADE

**The United States Government uses thousands of flags annually, not only the Stars and Stripes and the various flags and pennants of its own army and navy officers and civilian officials, but the flags of other countries as well. Every warship of our navy carries 43 foreign flags, for ceremonial purposes. The flagmaker in a government ensign factory must test all buntings. Sample lots are soaked and washed with soap in fresh water one day and the next in salt water. They are then exposed to weather for ten days, thirty hours of which must be sunlight. The colors must not fade or "run." The material is also tested for its strength. The flag shown above is the Portuguese ensign.**

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## Pernambuco, a Stop on the New Air Mail Line From France to Buenos Aires

PERNAMBUCO, Brazil, is rejoicing over the air service which cuts twelve days from the Paris to Buenos Aires mail delivery.

Pernambuco receives and dispatches airplanes on the service recently inaugurated. Land planes fly mail from Toulouse, France, to Casablanca, Morocco,* and on to St. Louis in Senegal. Seaplanes take the fast mail to Porto Praia, Cape Verde Islands. Swift steamers make Fernando Noronha, Brazil's penal colony, in three days. Again airplanes take up the burden, flying to Natal, on to Pernambuco, on to Rio de Janeiro, delivering the mail at last at Buenos Aires, seven and one-half days after it left Toulouse.

Pernambuco's geographical position reveals why this service to South America is possible.

If a line were drawn from Pernambuco due north, it would just miss the western extremity of the Azores. Dakar, westernmost city of Africa, is only half the distance from Pernambuco that Liverpool is from New York. Pernambuco noses into all direct transportation lanes from European and North Atlantic ports that do business with ports south of Pernambuco. Shipping from New York, Boston, or Baltimore, or Liverpool or Lisbon reaches Rio de Janeiro or Buenos Aires by passing Pernambuco's harbor.

### Dutch and Portuguese Had a Hand in Making Pernambuco

Pernambuco is the fourth largest city in Brazil with a population about equal to that of Indianapolis, Indiana. Many of the people are descendants of the Dutch and Portuguese, both of whom once claimed the city and surrounding country. The city owes much of its progress to the influence of these races, who fostered agriculture and commerce.

The old section of Pernambuco shows its Portuguese origin in the varicolored plaster-faced buildings that line some of the narrow cobblestone streets in the downtown section; while here and there steep gabled houses and business structures recall the quarter century of Dutch occupation that began ten years after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock.

Until a few years ago, large ocean-going boats had to anchor far out in the harbor. Up-to-date docks were constructed, and railroads were built, reaching into the productive hinterland. As a result, Pernambuco has become in a short time one of the important gateways to eastern Brazil.

### Much Produce Now Comes in by Rail

Sugar, tobacco, lumber, fruit, cotton, rubber and coffee, that once graced the backs of mules, now flow into the city by rail in vast quantities. More than forty sugar mills in the capital city attest the state's sugar production. Textile mills, shoe, soap and lock factories are also there.

Most of Pernambuco's business is carried on in the old section that occupies the island. The city market perhaps strikes the fancy of Americans more than any other feature. An abundance of rich, luscious tropical fruit is everywhere to be seen. On the ground are great piles of pineapples, alligator pears,

*The first leg of this service was flown by Lieut. J. Parker Van Zandt and described by him in "Looking Down on Europe," National Geographic Magazine, March, 1925.

At the boys' feast there also is a display of dolls in the best room. This time toy soldiers, warriors in ancient armor, swords and implements of battle are set out, flags are unfurled, and stories told of the bravery of the nation's historic patriots. The boy doll is invariably a fighter.

It is said that in the ancient days of Japan soldiers were buried alive at the funeral of an emperor. Later toy figures were substituted for the devoted followers of the chief. Thus originated the soldier doll which plays such a large part in the ceremonies of the fifth of May.

### Puppets "Act" in Doll Theaters

Another interesting branch of Japanese dolldom is the doll theater. On the stage, doll actors are manipulated by expert puppet handlers dressed in black and masked to disguise their own personalities. So finely adjusted are their movements that the dolls "act" with exceeding gracefulness, and every range of emotion is portrayed by the voices of men who handle them. Some of the doll handlers have been a lifetime in the business and are artists in the interpretation of Japanese drama.

Doll-making in Japan is a household industry, and every year many thousand Japanese doll babies are shipped to the United States and Europe. They are of all grades, from clay toys to gorgeous creatures whose kimonos are made of tiny figured silk woven for the purpose. Such a creation is Miss Dai Nippon, who leads the gift from the children of Japan to the children of the United States, and the fifty-eight dolls who form her suite.

**Bulletin No. 3, February 27, 1928.**

© *Photograph by Suito*

**A JAPANESE DOLL SHOP**

**On March 3, Japanese girls visit doll shops to add to their collections of dolls. The third day of the third month is The Feast of the Dolls in Nippon, when each Japanese girl arranges her dolls and doll furniture on a dais. The vender has an abacus, which is the Japanese and Chinese equivalent of an adding machine.**

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## Leipzig Opens Its Famous Fair

LEIPZIG, whose famous Spring Sample Fair opens March 4, will be the destination of buyers from all over the world.

The historic fair, held each spring and fall, is without rival in Europe. Merchants from forty corners of the earth come to Leipzig to sell or buy everything from bright Christmas tree ornaments to harvesters.

Famous fairs are also held at Lyon in France and at Nizhni Novgorod in Russia, but the former is more local in its appeal, while the latter has declined in attendance on account of political upheaval. Leipzig's fair also has had its ups and downs, but in recent years has emerged triumphant from war-time depression and postwar inflation.

### More Than 600 Firms Exhibit at Leipzig

Leipzig's importance as a market town really had its beginning in the fifteenth century, when Emperor Maximilian conferred a monopoly upon it. Other places in the region were forbidden to hold fairs at all. As a result the former trading village leaped at a bound into first place in local commerce. There were periods of black depression during various wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but Leipzig's central situation in middle Europe always attracted fresh material for commercial reconstruction.

At present both buyers and exhibitors come from all parts of Germany and from foreign countries. More than six hundred foreign firms are said to have exhibited goods at a recent fair. Among the heavy buying customers reported were merchants from the United States, Holland, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and the Baltic States. There were also representatives from French and English firms, notably the large department stores. Many exhibiting salesmen came from Czechoslovakia and Austria, as well as a few from Soviet Russia, making the fair truly an international gathering.

Goods exhibited at Leipzig are even more varied than the people who come to buy and sell. Toys from Nuremburg and Thuringia have long been famous. Like London, Leipzig is a center of the fur trade, while the publishing business of Europe has long centered in this old Saxon university town, once the seat of the imperial supreme law courts as well.

Almost every article used by civilized man may be ordered from samples exhibited here. There are displays of shoes and leather goods, clothing and textiles, tableware, engines, musical instruments, machinery, and office furniture. Porcelain from Czechoslovakia and glassware from Austria are to be seen and automobiles and electric refrigerators from America.

### Many Exhibition Halls Scattered Through City

These various wares are set forth in exhibition halls scattered through the city. Every lane and passage is utilized, creating a labyrinth comparable only to Bagdad's bazaars in the Arabian Nights period. A babel of language rises from excited and perspiring travelers who have come to buy or sell and are now trying to find their way about. Hotels are crowded to garret bedrooms, and Leipzig's railway station, the largest on the continent of Europe, is a hive of activity. Lines run south through Munich to Italy, Australia, and the Balkans,



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melons and mangoes of enormous size. In contrast to many South American markets, Pernambuco has no noisy vendors.

*© Photograph by W. Kenneth Cuyler*

HE HAS A NEW TASK PROMOTING AVIATION

**Ships that sail the sea have been the concern of this native with an albacore for dinner, but now his lighthouse on Fernando Noronha will be a guide to aviators. This island off the coast of Pernambuco will be the landing place for planes providing mail service with Buenos Aires.**

and north through Berlin to Scandinavia. A customer from Stockholm may enter his sleeper, be ferried, car and all, across the Baltic, and emerge next day on his home soil. To this central location Leipzig owes much of its remarkable growth. Its population increased fourteen-fold within the nineteenth century, rising from a little over thirty thousand in 1801 to more than half a million a hundred years later.

The city has a damp but not unhealthful climate and is a center of learning and culture as well as of commerce. Its university is one of the most famous in Germany, attracting many students from abroad. Goethe was once enrolled in its classes. In musical circles Leipzig is noted as birthplace of Wagner and the home, for a time, of Mendelssohn and Bach. Many quaint gabled houses dating from medieval days may still be found in narrow side streets of the old city; and there are museums, theaters, and lecture halls of which any metropolis might be proud. The fair visitor with a taste for literature, music, or art will not be at a loss for ways of spending his leisure hours in Saxony's "Little Paris," as its inhabitants were once fond of calling their city.

**Bulletin No. 5, February 27, 1928.**

© *Photograph by Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor*

**A TATAR MERCHANT ARRIVES FOR THE ANNUAL FAIR AT NIZHNI NOVGOROD**

**Since the World War the annual fair at Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, has never achieved the position it once held. Leipzig is now the outstanding fair town. Lyon, France, and Turin, Italy, have developed large commercial fairs.**